

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2018, Legislative Day No. 40

Resolution No. 44-18

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Mr. Pruski, and Ms. Pickard  
and  
by Ms. Rodvien  
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, December 17, 2018

1 RESOLUTION supporting the mission of the Equal Justice Initiative and remembering  
2 the victims of lynching in Anne Arundel County

3  
4 WHEREAS, the County Council supports the nationwide effort of the Equal Justice  
5 Initiative, specifically, in acknowledging and condemning the lynching of  
6 thousands of victims; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, for many residents in Anne Arundel County, the history of lynching  
9 is the history of their family and community; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, at least five lynchings took place in Anne Arundel County between  
12 the Civil War and World War II – John Simms in 1875, George Briscoe in 1884,  
13 Wright Smith in 1898, Henry Davis in 1906, and King Johnson in 1911; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Henry Davis, who was lynched in Annapolis on a bluff near College  
16 Creek just days before Christmas in 1906, was never given any opportunity to  
17 confront his accuser nor defend himself against the accusations made towards him;  
18 and

19  
20 WHEREAS, there is no known census record for Mr. Davis and his age and home  
21 address at the time of his death are uncertain; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, despite the inevitable presence of many eyewitnesses to the lynching  
24 of Henry Davis, and a month long investigation, a judge and jury were unable to  
25 charge a single person in connection with Henry Davis' death; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, it is important to bring awareness of this traumatic history in order to  
28 foster community dialogue and to forge bonds of empathy and community healing  
29 through the recognition and memorialization of these horrific lynchings; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, the County Council supports the nationwide effort of the Equal Justice  
32 Initiative in acknowledging and condemning the lynching of thousands of victims;  
33 and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the County Council supports the sentiment of the Equal Justice  
36 Initiative that a history of racial injustice must be acknowledged and mass atrocities

1 and abuse must be recognized and remembered before a community can recover;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3

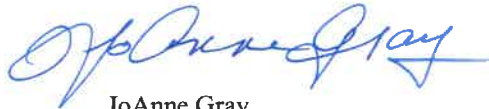
4 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That is hereby*  
5 *expresses its support of the Equal Justice Initiative and its deepest sympathies and most*  
6 *solemn regrets to the descendants of lynching victims, John Simms, George Briscoe,*  
7 *Wright Smith, Henry Davis, and King Johnson, as well as the victims whose identities may*  
8 *never be known, all who were deprived of life, human dignity, and the constitutional*  
9 *protections afforded all citizens of the United States; and be it further*

10

11 *Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to County Executive Steuart Pittman*  
12 *and to the Equal Justice Initiative.*

READ AND PASSED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018

By Order:



JoAnne Gray  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 44-18 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY  
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Andrew Pruski  
Chairman